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Suffolk County Partners with Brookhaven Town for Single Stream Recycling at County Facilities



Pictured left to right are Supervisor Romaine, Green Stream Recycling (GSR) President Will Flower, County Legislator Anker, GSR Partner and Co-owner Joe Winters, County Executive Bellone and Winters Brothers Vice President Sean Winters.

Brookhaven, NY, June 2014 –Suffolk County Legislator Sarah Anker joined County Executive Steve Bellone, Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine, and Town Officials to announce an Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA) between the Town and the County's Department of Public Works to establish a Single Stream Recycling Pilot Program.

Through Legislator Anker's legislation, which passed unanimously at the April 29th meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature, the IMA states that the Town will provide recycling containers to the Yaphank County Center, where it will be collected weekly and brought to the Town's Materials Recycling Facility located at the nearby Brookhaven Town Landfill site.

Traditional residential recycling programs require participants to separate recyclable glass, plastics, paper and cardboard, but single stream recycling allows all recyclables to be comingled, which is then sorted at a recycling facility, making it more convenient for participants to recycle. According to data provided by the Town of Brookhaven, communities that have moved from traditional to single stream recycling have seen a

20% to 30% increase in the recycling rate, translating to the sale of more recycled materials and avoided waste disposal costs.

“By reducing waste at county facilities we are also reducing the cost of carting fees, ultimately saving money for Suffolk County taxpayers,” said Legislator Anker. “The initiative is environmentally friendly and will encourage recycling at county facilities. As the first community on Long Island to establish a single stream recycling program, the Town of Brookhaven has proven that this program can be beneficial to both residents and municipalities.”

In early 2014, the Town of Brookhaven introduced single-stream recycling to residents. The Town’s new single stream recycling system, known as “The Green Machine,” can process up to 48 tons of recyclables per hour.

“Ensuring government is operating as efficiently as possible is paramount to good governing and serving the taxpayers,” said County Executive Bellone. “This IMA is yet another example where the County and the Town of Brookhaven has taken the opportunity to share services in an effort to streamline activities and reduce costs. I thank Legislator Sarah Anker for introducing this legislation and I thank Supervisor Romaine for his continued willingness to work collaboratively with the County.”

Supervisor Romaine said, “Getting the County on-board is a big step forward in our effort to promote single stream recycling in Brookhaven Town and all across Long Island. I thank the County Executive and the Legislature for recognizing that this pilot program is beneficial to both municipalities and that increased recycling rates are great for the taxpayer, the bottom line and the environment, leading us to a cleaner, greener future for generations to come.”

Upon completion of the pilot program, Department of Public Works will issue a written report containing its findings and determinations associated with their review of the pilot program. Additionally, the report is slated to provide recommendations for further action and cost-saving measures for the pilot program and will be provided to the County Executive and each member of the County Legislature within 120 days of the program’s completion.

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